

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 4, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Hagel,



We write to bring to your attention the grant application submitted by the Advanced Lightweight Materials Manufacturing Innovation Institute (ALMMII) in response to the Department of Defense Office of Naval Research proposal (ONRBAA13-019) to establish a Lightweight and Modern Materials Innovation Institute. Led by the Edison Welding Institute (EWI) in collaboration with The Ohio State University and the University of Michigan, ALMMII would accelerate the development of new and innovative technology essential to the U.S. manufacturing base.

We understand that ALMMII is a public-private partnership between industry, academia, and nonprofit organizations across several Midwestern states. With a mission to enhance the design and production of affordable lightweight components and structures, ALMMII's research would benefit multiple industries, including defense, automotive, aerospace, and energy. The Institute would not only develop cutting-edge manufacturing processes that would give our nation a competitive advantage, but it would also provide workforce training and education programs for students at all levels.

Manufacturing is at the heart of the Midwest economy, especially in Ohio, where it affects nearly 18 percent of our state domestic product. Drawing on world-class expertise and resources across four states – Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Tennessee – will enable private and public sector partners to effectively bridge the gap between research and product commercialization.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact Senator Brown's staff, Chris Slevin, at 202-224-2315 or Senator Portman's grant coordinator, Linda Greenwood at (419) 259-3895. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Rob Portman
United States Senator